

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Amoss-Salusbury House Survey Number: HA-1890 **HA-1981**

Project: US1:MD152-MD147 Agency: SHA/FHWA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no    yes Name                      Date                     

Eligibility recommended        Eligibility not recommended XX

Criteria:   A   B XXC   D Considerations:   A   B   C   D   E   F   G  
  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

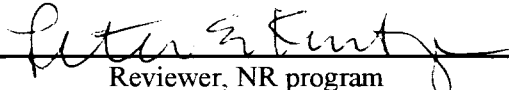
The Amoss-Saulsbury House, 1302 US 1 Business, Bel Air, Harford County, MD was originally a stone dwelling which was built around 1870 by a scion of the Amoss Family, James O. Amoss. Amoss died soon after construction and the house passed to various family members until the mid-20th century when the property was purchased by the Saulsburys. The Saulsburys and subsequent owners, the Danekers, have made many careful additions to the house. While much of it is natural development over time, this new construction contributes to the loss of integrity for the 19th century building. There is also an early 20th century barn on the property which is in poor shape. As a result, the entire Amoss-Saulsbury property lacks sufficient integrity to adequately convey the history of a nineteenth century farmstead and therefore is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria B or C.

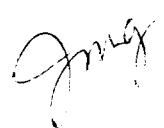
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: REview and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Rita Suffness/ SHA

Anne E. Bruder 2/20/98  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes    no    not applicable

 2/23/98  
Reviewer, NR program Date



Survey No. HA-1981  
~~HA-1890~~

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC  
CONTEXT**

**I. Geographic Region:**

☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,  
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.  
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.  
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.  
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.  
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.  
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900  
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600  
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750  
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
☐ Unknown Period ( ☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

**III. Prehistoric Period Themes:**

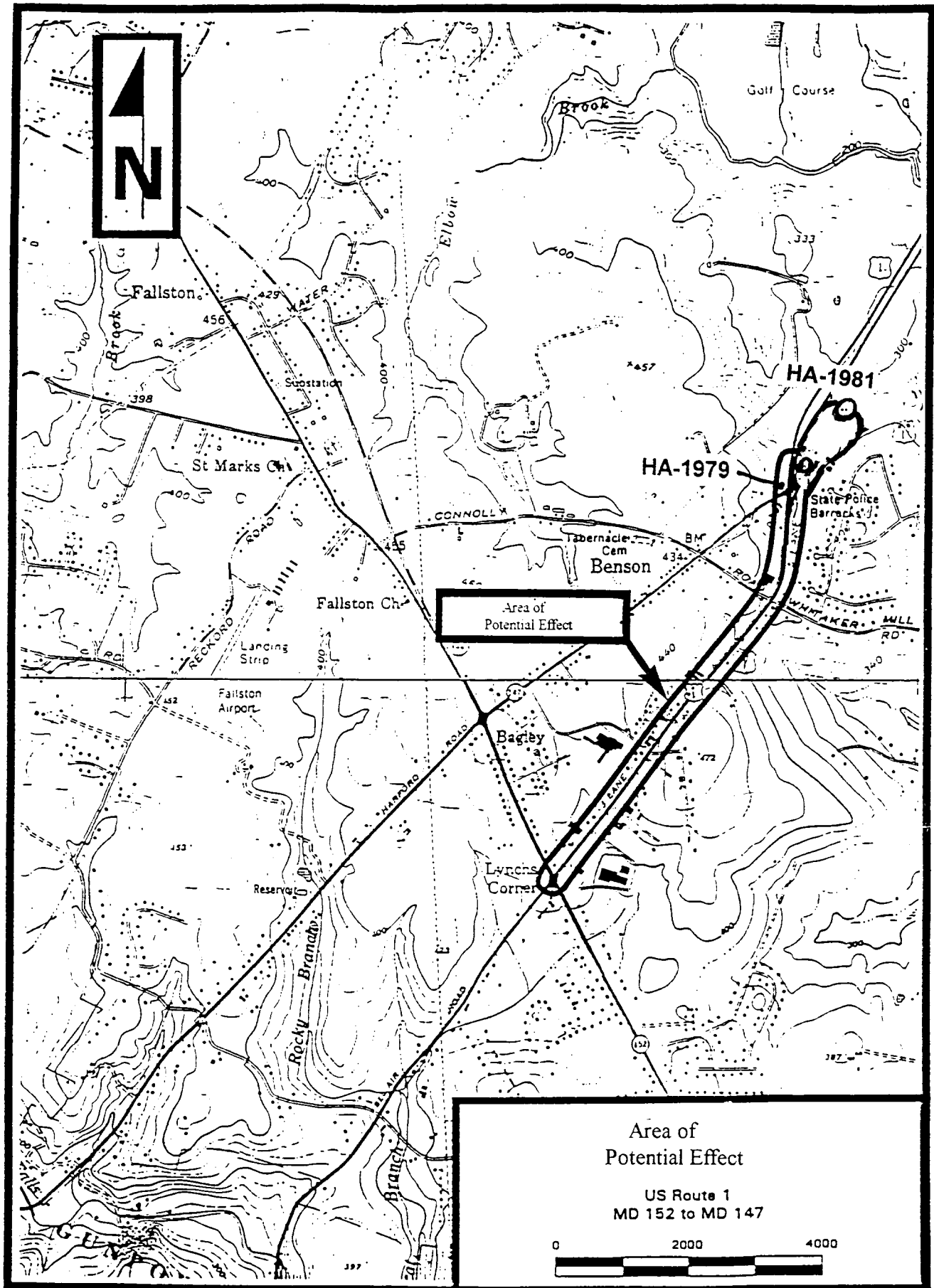
☐ Subsistence  
☐ Settlement  
  
☐ Political  
☐ Demographic  
☐ Religion  
☐ Technology  
☐ Environmental Adaptation

**IV. Historic Period Themes:**

☒ Agriculture  
☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,  
and Community Planning  
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
☐ Government/Law  
☐ Military  
☐ Religion  
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural  
☐ Transportation

**V. Resource Type:**

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Rural  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Farmstead/Family House  
Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_

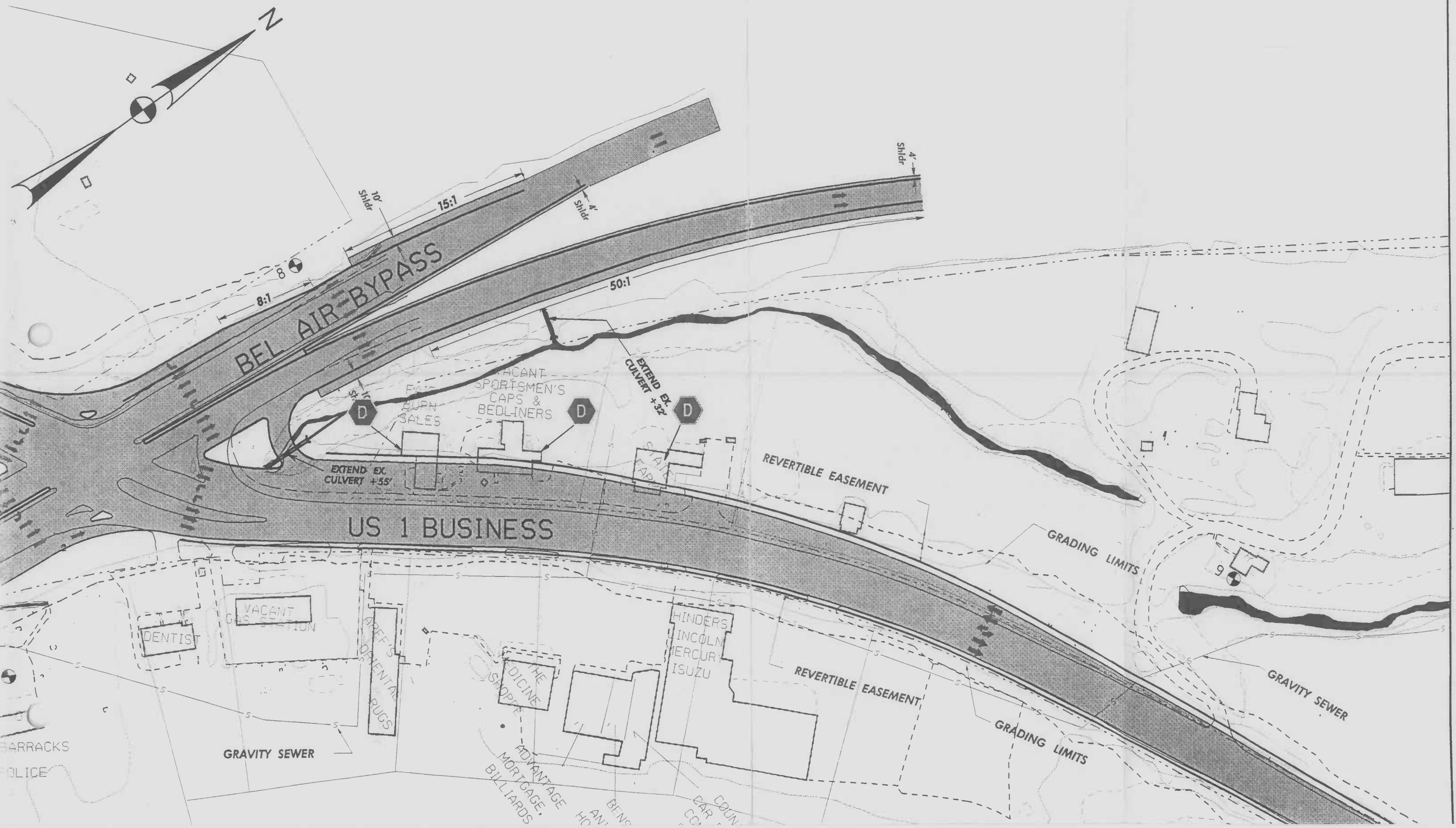


Source: USGS Topographic Map, Jarrettsville and  
White Marsh, MD Quadrangles

HA-1981

US 1: 152 to 147  
Kits 2, 3, & 5 WA-1981

US Business area



**HARFORD COUNTY**  
**HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

**SURVEY NUMBER:** HA-1981

**BUILDING NAME:** Amoss-Saulsbury House

**LOCATION:** 1305 US 1 (Bel Air Road)

**BUILDING DATE:** ca. 1870, 1935-1975

**DESCRIPTION:** The Amoss-Saulsbury Historic site, a 12.52 acre property, is located north of the intersection of US 1 Business, US 1 Bypass and MD 147 on the outskirts of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County. It represents three periods of construction. There are five intact structures on the property, with only two pre-dating the second third of the twentieth century—the rubble masonry portion of the mostly twentieth century rental house and a springhouse. Two structures (plus the encapsulation of the original dwelling in frame additions)-- frame barn and an ell-shaped two-part stone gatehouse/cottage--date to the Saulsbury ownership ca. 1935 to 1959. The fifth structure is the large frame ranch style dwelling near the northern border of the tax parcel which was built by the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Millions Daneker, ca. 1965.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The rubble masonry core of the mostly twentieth century frame dwelling structure (plus small stone springhouse) dates to the period of Amoss ownership when it was included among the over 200-acre Mt. Soma property, the seat of the Amoss family. Although remaining in the possession of Cornelia Amoss, probably as a rental property, this ca. 19-acre parcel was a small remnant of the large estate, Mt. Soma, the seat of the Amoss family in Harford, which was decimated with the 1918 sale to the Archer family. It has not been agricultural use for some time. The second period of construction, dating to the Saulsbury ownership of the ca. 1940's and 1950's, is represented by the extensive frame additions to the dwelling, the rubble masonry gatehouse (expanded with an ell and converted to a dwelling), plus the frame bank barn. The large ranch dwelling constructed by the current owners, the Danekers, in ca. 1965, represents the final period of construction.

The only historical structure of particular note on the property is the original masonry rubble section of the large, ell-shaped dwelling; however, it has undergone considerable alteration. There is no indication that any member of the Amoss family resided there. The only other structure pre-dating the third quarter of the twentieth century, the springhouse, is in poor condition.

**HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
HARFORD COUNTY  
BENSON, MARYLAND**

**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION:** Piedmont

**CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIOD (s):**

Industrial/Urban Dominance-1870-1930

Modern - 1930 to Present

**PREHISTORIC/HISTORIC PERIOD THEME (s):** Architecture  
**RESOURCE TYPE**

**CATEGORY:** Buildings

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT:** Suburban

**HISTORIC FUNCTION (s) AND USE (s):**

Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence

Domestic/ Single Dwelling/Residence (expanded and converted  
gatehouse)

Domestic/ Single Dwelling/Residence (Non-contributing)

Domestic/Secondary Structure/Outbuilding/Springhouse

Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuilding/Barn

**KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE:** None

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC SITES

Survey No. HA-198 1

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Amoss-Saulsbury House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 1302 US 1 Business N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Bel Air ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Harford

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership  | Status                                       | Present Use   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress    | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted     | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted   | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no       | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|   |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Millions Daneker

street & number 1302 US 1 Business telephone no.: (410) 877-7641

city, town state and zip code MD

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse liber 585

street & number folio 591

city, town Bel Air state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title N/A

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1981

**Condition**

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See continuation sheet 7.1



## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA -1981

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates ca. 1888-1900, 1940's-1965 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See continuation sheet 8.1

Survey No. HA-1981

See continuation sheet 9.1

**Acreage of nominated property** 12.51 acres

Quadrangle name Bel Air

Quadrangle scale 1:24.000

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|
|      |         |          |

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**C**

D

[illegible]

F 

**G**

H |     |     |     |     |     |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| name/title | Rita Suffness, Leader, Cultural Resources Group |
|------------|---|

**organization** MD SHA

**date** 8-12-97

**street & number** 707 N. Calvert Street

telephone (410) 545-5856

city or town Baltimore

state MD 21202

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

DITCP/DITCD  
 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 100 COMMERCIAL STREET  
 CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02142

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.1**  
**DESCRIPTION**

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:** The Amoss-Saulsbury Historic site, a 12.52 acre property, is located north of the intersection of US 1 Business, US 1 Bypass and MD 147 on the outskirts of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County. There are five intact structures on the property, with only two pre-dating the second third of the twentieth century—the rubble masonry portion of the mostly twentieth century rental house and a springhouse. Two structures (plus the encapsulation of the original dwelling in frame additions)—a large frame barn and an ell-shaped two-part stone gatehouse/cottage-- date to the Saulsbury ownership ca. 1935 to 1959. The fifth structure is the large frame ranch style dwelling near the northern border of the tax parcel which was built by the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Millions Daneker, ca. 1965.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Amoss-Saulsbury Historic site, a 12.52 acre property, is located north of the intersection of US 1 Business, US 1 Bypass and MD 147 on the outskirts of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County. This crossroads community, located south of Bel Air, is known historically as Benson. The Amoss-Saulsbury House is one of a number of remnants of the large family estate of the Amoss family, well known in Harford County. It is the location of a reputed tenant house, possibly dating from the Amoss ownership, which has been incorporated into a twentieth century dwelling. Only one other structure—a springhouse—dates to Amoss ownership and may pre-date the second third of the twentieth century.

The supposed Amoss tenant house is composed of rubble masonry, which is a common building material in Harford county. The immediate area is the location of a number of rubble masonry structures. The Amoss family seat, Mt. Soma, [a.k.a. Amoss-Archer House (HA-1280)], located some distance north of the Amoss-Saulsbury House (separated from it by a large modern car dealership) was a very large masonry dwelling constructed as the seat of the Amoss family. The two-part Hoskins-Guidice House (HA-1259) is located north of the property at the edge of US 1 Business. Edgely Grove [(HA-1081), a.k.a. the Francis Smith house] is located to the west of it across the US 1 Bypass. This structure retains excellent integrity. All of these structures have been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Amoss-Saulsbury historic site is a large wooded property, triangular in shape, with

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.2**  
**DESCRIPTION**

the apex, or acute angle, on the south at the intersection of these three major roads. Moderate slopes characterize the topography of the land. The property slopes down to US 1 Business (on a raised roadway to the east), and US 1 Bypass on the west, to the level of a tributary of Winters Run, which bisects the property.

The structures are reached by means of a curved road, which is the principle egress from US 1 Business on the east. This road forks, with the south arm accessing a stone springhouse, ca. 1945 bank barn and the original dwelling, and the other accessing two new buildings, a ca. 1940, stone gatehouse/cottage and a ca. 1965 contemporary ranch-style dwelling.

There are five intact structures on the property as well as the ruins of a small frame probable mid-twentieth century building adjacent to the US 1 Business. Two structures likely date to the nineteenth century--the rubble masonry portion of the oldest dwelling, (used as a rental property for at least the last ca. forty years) and a rubble masonry springhouse located down the slope and off the southeast corner of the house. Two other structures--a large frame barn and an ell-shaped two-part stone gatehouse/cottage, date to the Saulsbury ownership ca. 1935 to 1959. The fifth structure is the large frame ranch style dwelling near the northern border of the tax parcel which was built by the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Millions Daneker, ca. 1965. They have not resided in the older dwelling.

The older dwelling, which crowns a rise and is built into a hill on the east and north sides, is a large multi-part structure, frame with a rubble masonry section, which assumed its present form as a result of numerous twentieth century additions. The oldest part is the rubble masonry block, which forms the northeast corner of the current structure. The origin of this core of the mostly twentieth century dwelling is obscure. It does not appear on any historical maps of the nineteenth century, when the property was part of the Amoss estate, the small remnant of which is documented in the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory as the Amoss-Archer House, a.k.a. Mt. Soma (HA-1260) and it does not appear on any of the 7.5 minute USGS quadrangles for Bel Air. It is believed that it may have been built as a tenant house on the Mt. Soma (Amoss-Archer House, HA-1280).

Mt. Soma was the family seat of the Amoss family, dating to the life of William Amoss II,

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.3**  
**DESCRIPTION**

one of Harford County's most illustrious citizens, who likely built the masonry in ca. 1800. The property had its genesis with the purchase of 200 acres in Winters Run by William Amoss (1690-1759) in 1715 for "thirty pounds Sterling". He left the property to his son William (1718-1814) who prospered as one of Harford's leading farmers and land speculators. After fighting in the border disputes with Pennsylvania he converted to Quakerism and helped establish the Little Falls Meeting in Fallston. He was also an early abolitionist. On his death Mt. Soma passed to his son, Garrett, in 1870, whose son, in turn, sold the farm for \$12,717 to the Archer family in 1918.

Throughout the years it was owned by James Amoss, William Lee Amoss and Garrett Amoss, then William Lee Amoss II, it was expanded with additional purchases of land. The two structures likely referenced in the assessment of 1846 when Garrett Amoss inherited the property from his father, William Lee Amoss, are the main house (the mansard-roofed house-HA-1260) and a structure noted as the residence of J. O. Amoss, no longer extant, in the general vicinity of the present car dealership which currently separates Mt. Soma from the Daneker property (Amoss-Saulsbury House).

It is probable that the rubble masonry core of the present house, comprising the northeast corner, was a tenant house, as identified by a previous tenant, Mrs. Higbee (personal communication, 1985). The small stone springhouse located downhill of it and off the southeast corners of the dwelling probably dates to the same era as the stone section of the house. The same former residents, the Higbees, reported that a small winder stair was located in the northwest corner of the stone section and that the structure had been greatly modernized on the interior. It was not possible to view the interior to access the condition of the structure or to note any changes.

It is likely that the small, banked, two-and-one-half story rubble masonry tenant house was built during the twenty year stewardship of William Amoss (1889-1918) just preceding his sale of the bulk of the 234 acre estate to Joseph Archer in 1918 (JAR 160/57). William Amoss may have constructed the masonry tenant house on the ca. 19-acre portion he gave to his unmarried daughter Cornelia [Cornelia Pells Concklin Breed Amoss]. She, in turn, sold 17 acres to George Saulsbury in 1935 (SWC 237/384) when she married Ralph W. Lee, at which time she is noted as living in Queens, New York City. She died in Pensacola Florida in 1949 during her marriage to her second husband who was the son of the mayor of Pensacola.

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.4**  
**DESCRIPTION**

It is likely that Saulsbury undertook the expansion of the only dwelling on the property at the time (the masonry structure) during his ownership from ca. 1935 to 1959. He constructed the two large frame additions (the extensions of the structure to the south and west) after his purchase upon retiring from a railroad career. He constructed a number of buildings to supplement the rubble masonry dwelling and springhouse-- a small stone structure (identified as a gatehouse by previous tenants) near the entrance, which he expanded a few years later (likely converting it to a cottage in the late 1940's) and a medium size frame bank barn located south of the house. When the current owner, Millions Daneker, purchased the property in 1959 there was a full width porch across the east façade of the stone section of the ell-shaped dwelling. This has been removed.

The main dwelling is an ell-shaped structure, with an uncoursed masonry original section, with a slate roof, with a large modern frame addition on the south and extending to the rear, or west. The original part of the house, constituting the northeast corner, is entirely rubble masonry construction with some evidence of crude ashlar quoining at the two exposed corners (northeast and northwest). The two opposite corners are obscured by the large Saulsbury addition to the south side. Nearly square in plan and with a side gable roof, the structure is two bays wide on the eastern façade (entrance) and one bay deep. Built into a rise on the rear (or west) the eastern entrance facade is well below the grade of the opposite side. The centered doorway accesses the first (basement level, with one six-over six pane wooden sash window in the south bay and one small wooden sash window (on the north) providing additional illumination to the interior of the lower level. Above the doorway in the second level are two symmetrically placed windows (identical to that in the lower level on the east facade) with a dormer (which Saulsbury added during his tenure) above and centered between them in the forward slope of the roof.

Thus the east entrance façade is composed of the original rubble masonry section on the north (with a dormer added by Saulsbury in ca. 1940's) and the deep frame section on the south, built in three sections. The forward section, which extends the masonry core to the south, is one bay wide, with a dormer identical to that Saulsbury added to the original section at the roof level, and paired windows at the main floor (basement) and a single wooden sash at the second floor level. A small section of rubble masonry wall (at the southeast corner) is exposed.

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.5**  
**DESCRIPTION**

The north gable (the only exposed gable end) is the location of a small eight-light casement in the basement level and a set of elongated casements (composed of eight lights each) in the gable end of the roof directly below the peak. These are similar to those that Saulsbury incorporated at road level in the west gable end of the original section of the gatehouse located to the east of the house.

The south gable end is the location of a very long addition constructed in three sections. The forward section is the end of the gable roof extension of the original rubble masonry section, the location of paired windows in the first (basement) level, centered paired windows in the second level and smaller paired windows near the peak of the roof. Immediately abutted to the rear is a deep (four or five bays) gambrel-roofed addition, the rear of which is utilized as a garage. The south (lower) slope of the gambrel roof has been extended beyond the plane of the main section and is the location of three shed-roofed dormers and, at the ground (second story) level, an outside door. Most of this section is constructed on a brick foundation. The area between the plane of the garage roof extension and the south plane of the house wall itself the location of a shed roofed enclosed porch addition, providing additional egress to the lower level (two doors on the south side) and a paved patio.

The rear (west) elevation is the location of the gable end of the gambrel-roofed section (with one window in the second level and a wide garage doorway) plus the west or rear of the original masonry part of the building. A two-bay wide screened porch fills in the angle between the old part and the new. There is one exposed window in the west plane of the original stone part. A shed-roofed dormer was added to the roofline near its junction with the gambrel roof of the newer section to match the two dormer windows found there. A simple brick chimney is located in the angle crated by these two shed roofed dormers at the junction of the two sections. It may have demarcated the end wall of the original part before Saulsbury added built the frame section.

The stone springhouse is located off the southeast corner of the dwelling. It is very small and well below grade at the bottom of the slope and is oriented with a gable front entrance. Oriented to the north, the simple door is centered in the north gable end.

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.6**  
**DESCRIPTION**

The bank barn, built by George Saulsbury ca. 1950, is located to the south of the house and is accessed by the same curving driveway which terminates in the garage extension to the house. Built on a rubble foundation, the barn is a frame gambrel-roofed structure, which has been extended by a one-story shed-roofed section on the west. The south is the location of an extended forebay. The northern elevation, built into a slope, has an earthen ramp, which provided access to the storage area on the second level. Egress into the structure is via large sliding barn doors, with a smaller hinged man-door provided in one of the large sliding doors. George Saulsbury also built the small uncoursed rubble-masonry gatehouse in ca. 1940. It is located immediately adjacent to and below the grade of the entrance road—the doorway installed in the attic level below the peak of the west gable end is at the level of the roadway. The original section is a side-gable one-and-one-half story structure, which is oriented to the east. The entrance is centered between two identical windows and directly below a shed-roofed two-window dormer. The roof is shingled with asphalt shingles. The west gable end is the location of a large outside chimney built of the same material as the walls. The structure was extended to the rear with a shorter, one-story section with a gable roof perpendicular to the main block.



**HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
BENSON, MARYLAND**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.7  
DESCRIPTION**

| <b>CHAIN OF TITLE</b>               |                              |    |                                | <b>Land Record</b>       |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Myra R. Saulsbury                   |                              | to | Million Daneker<br>12.51 acres | 585/591<br>11/3/1959     |
| <b>Assembled from Three Parcels</b> |                              |    |                                |                          |
| 1                                   | A. Cornelia Amoss            | to | George Saulsbury<br>17 acres   | SWC237/384<br>7/30/1935  |
|                                     | B. Frank Taylor              | to | William Amoss                  | WSF120/113<br>10/11/1906 |
|                                     | C. William Amoss             | to | Frank Taylor                   | WSF 102/188<br>5/13/1901 |
|                                     | D. Garrett Amoss             | to | William Amoss<br>235 acres     | ALJ65/138<br>6/5/1889    |
| 2.                                  | Albert Denbow                | to | George Saulsbury<br>1.72 Acres | SWC239/467<br>2/28/1936  |
| 3.                                  | A. Joseph<br>and Mary Archer | to | George Saulsbury<br>4.86 acres | SWC241/207<br>5/1/1936   |
|                                     | B. William Amoss             | to | Joseph Archer<br>130.44 Acres  | JAR160/57<br>1/5/1918    |
|                                     | C. Garrett Amoss             | to | William Amoss                  | ALJ65/138<br>6/5/1889    |

**HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
BENSON, MARYLAND**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.1**

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

The Amoss-Saulsbury historic site represents three periods of construction. The rubble masonry core of the mostly twentieth century frame dwelling structure (plus small stone springhouse) dates to the period of Amoss ownership when it was included among the over 200-acre Mt. Soma property, the seat of the Amoss family. Although remaining in the possession of Cornelia Amoss, probably as a rental property, this ca. 19-acre parcel was a small remnant of the large estate, which was decimated with the 1918 sale to the Archer family. It has not been agricultural use for some time. The second period of construction, dating to the Saulsbury ownership of the ca. 1940's and 1950's, is represented by the extensive frame additions to the dwelling, the rubble masonry gatehouse (expanded with an ell and converted to a dwelling), plus the frame bank barn. The large ranch dwelling constructed by the current owners, the Danekers, in ca. 1965, represents the final period of construction.

The only historical structure of particular note on the property is the original masonry rubble section of the large, ell-shaped dwelling; however, it has undergone considerable alteration. There is no indication that any member of the Amoss family resided there.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Amoss-Saulsbury historic site represents three periods of construction. The original masonry section of the masonry/ frame structure (plus small stone springhouse) dates to the period of Amoss ownership, likely 1880-1900, when it was included among the over 200-acre Mt. Soma property, the seat of the Amoss family. Although remaining in the possession of Cornelia Amoss, probably as a rental property, this ca. 19-acre parcel was a small remnant of the large estate, which was decimated with the 1918 sale to the Archer family.

The second period of construction, dating to the Saulsbury ownership of the ca. 1940's and 1950's, is represented by the extensive frame additions to the dwelling, the rubble masonry gatehouse (expanded with an ell and converted to a dwelling), plus the frame bank barn. The large ranch dwelling constructed by the current owners, the Danekers, in ca. 1965, represents the final period of construction.

**HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
BENSON, MARYLAND**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.2**

The only historical structure of particular note on the property is the original masonry rubble section of the large, ell-shaped dwelling; however, it has undergone considerable alteration. Although the inside of the house could not be viewed, the tenants reported considerable alteration on the interior. The exterior changes include the removal of an east-facing porch, the addition of dormers on both the west and east façades, and the insertion of long casement windows in the north gable end. A deep frame wing was installed on the south by George Saulsbury, thus obscuring that end of the original structure core altogether. Currently constituting the northeast corner, thus masonry core may have been constructed as a tenant house on the Amoss estate. There is no indication that any member of the Amoss family resided there.

Masonry structures are not uncommon in Harford County. The Bel Air area in the vicinity of the Amoss-Saulsbury House is the location of a number of rubble masonry structures. The Amoss family seat, Mt. Soma, [a.k.a. Amoss-Archer House (HA-1280)], located some distance north of the Amoss-Saulsbury House (north of a very large modern car dealership which separates the two properties) was a very large masonry dwelling constructed as the seat of the Amoss family. The two-part Hoskins-Guidice House (HA-1259) is located north of the property at the edge of US 1 Business. Edgely Grove [(HA-1081), a.k.a. the Francis Smith house] is located to the west of the US 1 Bypass. Properties associated with the Amoss family are also not uncommon in Harford County, or in the vicinity of the Amoss-Saulsbury House. Edgely Grove (HA-1081), retaining considerable integrity not only with the masonry dwelling but in the retention of the extensive agricultural land, has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic places in part because of its association with the Amoss family. The family seat, Mt. Soma, is significant, as the original property and focus of the family history, and will undergo considerable restoration as part of an ambitious plan to restore it.

In conclusion, the Amoss-Saulsbury House, although in the Amoss family ownership for some time, is not readily or widely associated with any person in that family or with the family seat known as Mt. Soma. It is also not associated with any other important family or person in Harford County according to county historians and historical materials, published and unpublished.

The site has been analyzed within the context of the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930), and the *Modern Era* (1930-Present) within Harford County. The

HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
BENSON, MARYLAND

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.3

area in which the Amoss-Saulsbury House is located is known as Benson, just south of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County. The inland areas near Bel Air were settled between 1700 and 1725 the first patent being issued in 1701 to Daniel Scott. As early as 1718 an establishment called the Eagle Hotel operated in the area, which became Bel Air, which came to be called "Scott's Old Fields". Five roads converged there and the existence of the hotel suggests that they were well traveled. Existing US Route 1 probably followed its present alignment by that time, although historical sources only confirm that it predated 1780. A small loop section of the original roadbed at its junction with Winters Run was bypassed in the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Harford County was officially established in 1773, by which time the center of population had shifted to the interior. In 1782 the county seat was moved to Scott's Old Fields, later renamed Bel Air, and a courthouse and jail were constructed by 1791. The ancestral home of the Amoss family, Mt. Soma, was established around 1800 in the area south of Bel Air, along US Route 1 near its intersection with Winters Run.

Commercial and industrial growth in Harford County began in the 18th century. The establishment of early industries was aided by the abundance of natural resources and exploitable waterpower along the Fall Line. This discovery of iron ore led of establishment of several iron furnaces and mines after 1727. By this time, soil exhaustion had initiated the gradual replacement of tobacco by wheat cultivation, encouraging the milling industry. A gristmill, a sawmill and tannery were in operation along Bynums Run before 1773. Further commercial and industrial growth characterized the *Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period* (1815 to 1870). Development of the lumber industry led to the establishment of sawmills on most of the county's steams in the early nineteenth century.

Two structures were referenced in the assessment of 1846 when Garrett Amoss inherited Mt. Soma from his father, William Lee Amoss. One was the main house (the mansard-roofed house-HA-1260) and the other structure, noted as the residence of J. O. Amoss, is no longer extant, as it may have been in the general vicinity of the present car dealership which currently separates Mt. Soma from the Daneker property (Amoss-Saulsbury House).

The economy of Baltimore dominated the region during the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930), retarding further industrial development in the county. The local iron industry declined as the low-grade ores in the region declined in commercial value.

HA-1981  
AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE  
BENSON, MARYLAND

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET 8.4**

Although new industries were established, including flint mining and vegetable canning, industrialization in urban areas far outpaced Harford County's development. During the *Modern Period* (1930-Present) Harford County has undergone rapid development as population in the Baltimore region has increased and agricultural land is today being rapidly replaced by suburban housing development. Increasingly lost in an area overcome by commercial development, especially mammoth car dealerships and lumber companies, they no longer retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**HA-1981**  
**AMOSS-SAULSBURY HOUSE**  
**BENSON, MARYLAND**

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Amoss Saulsbury House  
Tax Map

FRANCIS G. SMITH  
6771 500  
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P. 105

RAYMOND B. ARCHER, JR.  
298/448  
86 BGA  
P. 106

MAP 55 - P. 153

COUNTRY  
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P

48 - P. 105

BEL AIR BY PASS - US

M. E. DANEKE  
**HA 1981**  
P. 13

MARLENE  
1136  
1136  
64  
P.

DAVID LEE

P. 162

BRUC

P. 161

P. 473

P. 164

P. 548

P. 160

P. 401

P. 329

P. 770

P. 771

P. 708

P. 789

P. 752

P. 751

P. 750

P. 749

P. 748

P. 747

P. 746

P. 745

P. 744

P. 743

P. 742

P. 741

P. 740

P. 739

P. 738

P. 737

P. 736

P. 735

P. 734

P. 733

P. 732

P. 731

P. 730

P. 729

P. 728

P. 727

P. 726

P. 725

P. 724

P. 723

P. 722

P. 721

P. 720

P. 719

P. 718

P. 717

P. 716

P. 715

P. 714

P. 713

P. 712

P. 711

P. 710

P. 709

P. 708

P. 707

P. 706

P. 705

P. 704

P. 703

P. 702

P. 701

P. 700

P. 699

P. 698

P. 697

P. 696

P. 695

P. 694

P. 693

P. 692

P. 691

P. 690

P. 689

P. 688

P. 687

P. 686

P. 685

P. 684

P. 683

P. 682

P. 681

P. 680

P. 679

P. 678

P. 677

P. 676

P. 675

P. 674

P. 673

P. 672

P. 671

P. 670

P. 669

P. 668

P. 667

P. 666

P. 665

P. 664

P. 663

P. 662

P. 661

P. 660

P. 659

P. 658

P. 657

P. 656

P. 655

P. 654

P. 653

P. 652

P. 651

P. 650

P. 649

P. 648

P. 647

P. 646

P. 645

P. 644

P. 643

P. 642

P. 641

P. 640

P. 639

P. 638

P. 637

P. 636

P. 635

P. 634

P. 633

P. 632

P. 631

P. 630

P. 629

P. 628

P. 627

P. 626

P. 625

P. 624

P. 623

P. 622

P. 621

P. 620

P. 619

P. 618

P. 617

P. 616

P. 615

P. 614

P. 613

P. 612

P. 611

P. 610

P. 609

P. 608

P. 607

P. 606

P. 605

P. 604

P. 603

P. 602

P. 601

P. 600

P. 599

P. 598

P. 597

P. 596

P. 595

P. 594

P. 593

P. 592

P. 591

P. 590

P. 589

P. 588

P. 587

P. 586

P. 585

P. 584

P. 583

P. 582

P. 581

P. 580

P. 579

P. 578

P. 577

P. 576

P. 575

P. 574

P. 573

P. 572

P. 571

P. 570

P. 569

P. 568

P. 567

P. 566

P. 565

P. 564

P. 563

P. 562

P. 561

P. 560

P. 559

P. 558

P. 557

P. 556

P. 555

P. 554

P. 553

P. 552

P. 551

P. 550

P. 549

P. 548

P. 547

P. 546

P. 545

P. 544

P. 543

P. 542

P. 541

P. 540

P. 539

P. 538

P. 537

P. 536

P. 535

P. 534

P. 533

P. 532

P. 531

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P. 527

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P. 525

P. 524

P. 523

P. 522

P. 521

P. 520

P. 519

P. 518

P. 517

P. 516

P. 515

P. 514

P. 513

P. 512

P. 511

P. 510

P. 509

P. 508

P. 507

P. 506

P. 505

P. 504

P. 503

P. 502

P. 501

P. 500

P. 499

P. 498

P. 497

P. 496

P. 495

P. 494

P. 493

P. 492

P. 491

P. 490

P. 489

P. 488

P. 487

P. 486

P. 485

P. 484

P. 483

P. 482

P. 481

P. 480

P. 479

P. 478

P. 477

P. 476

P. 475

P. 474

P. 473

P. 472

P. 471

P. 470

P. 469

P. 468

P. 467

P. 466

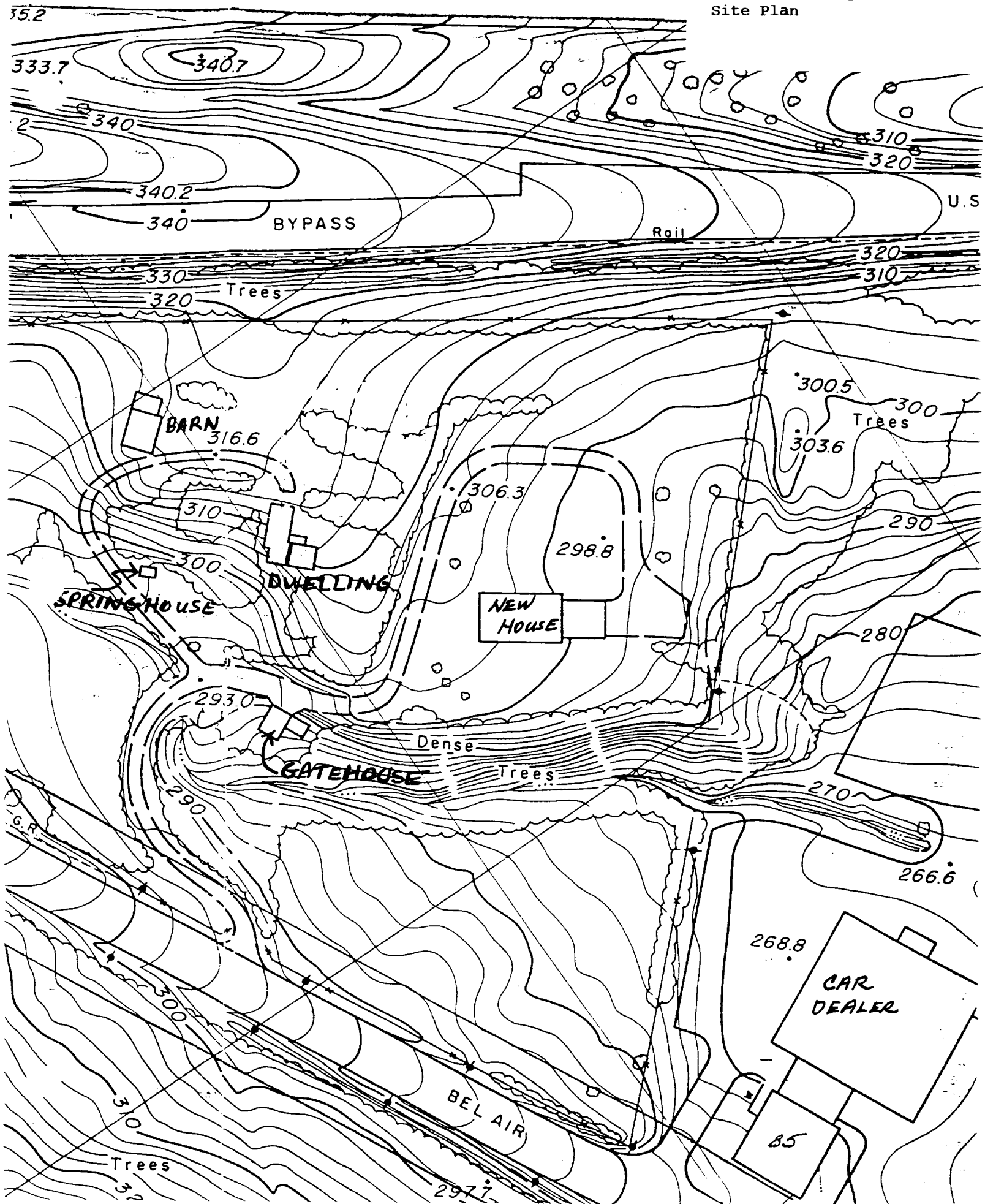
P. 465

P. 464

P. 463

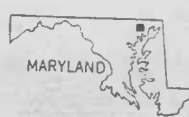
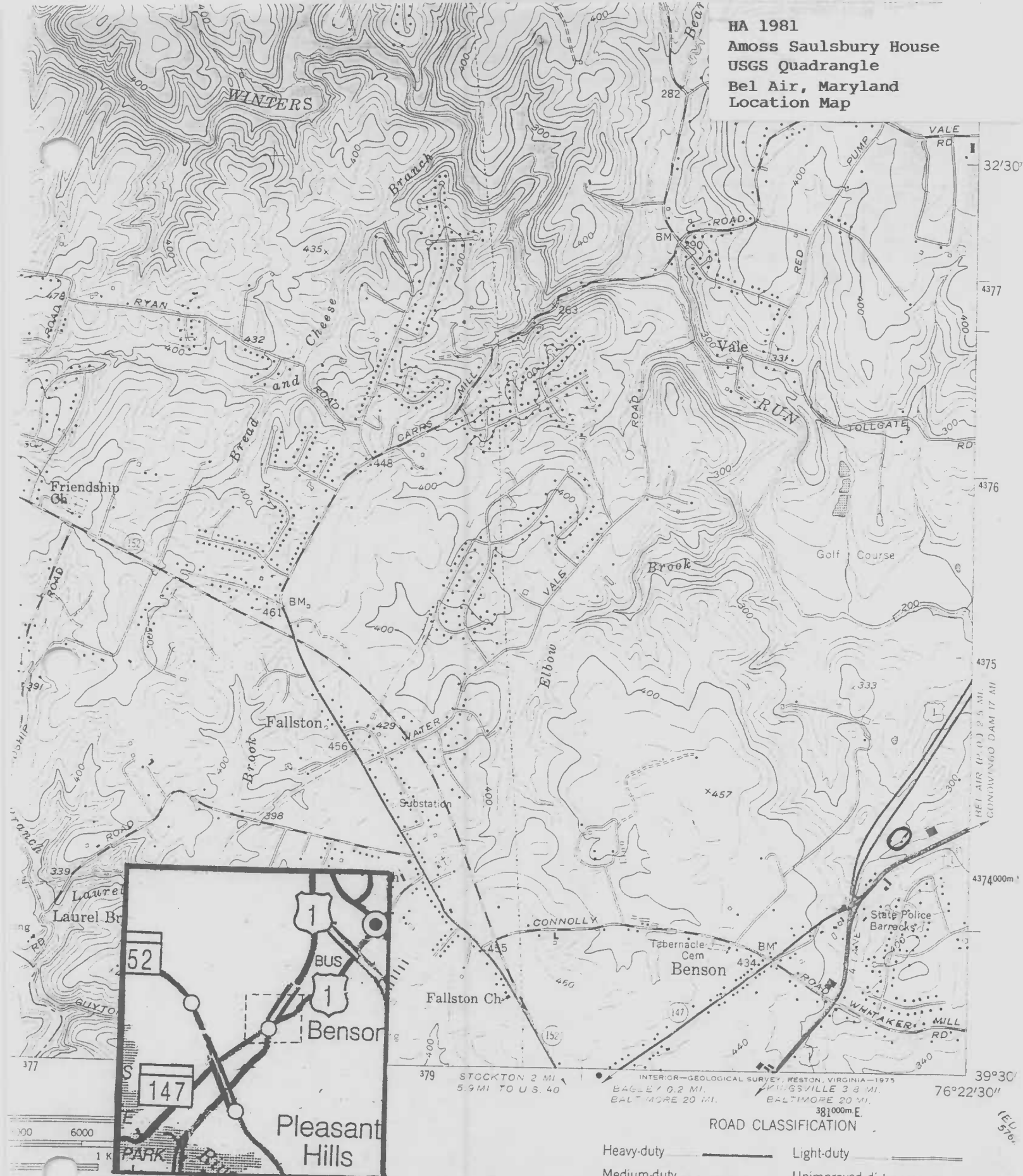
P. 462

P. 461





HA 1981  
 Amoss Saulsbury House  
 USGS Quadrangle  
 Bel Air, Maryland  
 Location Map



JARRETTSVIL



HA 1981

Arise-Sunday House

Baron 12th

STABLE 00168 11/11/17

Inflection 8157

Midway 17.7

SE corner

1/13



HA 1918  
 Amor. - Sandberg!  
 Bureau Vol

R. Saffron 8 P. - 1  
 Mrs. R. Saffron 7

East Elevator

2/13



3/13





- A1961

Amos Jacobson & Home  
Benson Rd

R. Sufferen 8/5-

Wd 1st 1st 1st

NW Corner

4/73



513



HP 1981

Ames-S

Pauline Mde

R Suffern 8/17

Mr. H. T. Reed

S. H. M. M. M. -

6/12



H.P. 127

Amos-Saulsbury Lane

Ruffian 8/9-

Mr. Hot Tires

Barn

South Elmore -

7/10





AA 1981

Class - sandstone Has

Bed -

Ruffian & P.

100 - 200 -

Ba -

S W Corner

2/13



4A 1981

Amos-Paulding, W.

Bernie Wood

R. Sullivan 8/2

Mr. & Mrs. [unclear]

Springhouse

SE [unclear]

9/13



HA 1981

Amo. Banding th.

Benny, Vnd

in Register 8/97

10:00 AM

Below stage

SWB

10/13



HA 1981

Amos-Saulsbury House  
Barnes Rd

Rita Saffron 8/97

MD Hist Trust

Bathhouse/Cabage

SE Corner

11/13





HP 1981

Amoss - Paulberry Lane

Beverly

R. Suffer 1/4

NY MHT

Bathhouse / Cottage

NE Corner

12/13



HA 1981

Amos: Sanderling Ha

Benson: 1/1/81

Ruffen 8/6 →

negs at 11/11/81

New Home (ca 1965)

note

1313